

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

STEPHEN DIPHILOPO, derivatively on behalf of  
MICROSOFT CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

STEVEN A. BALLMER, DINA D. DUBLON,  
WILLIAM H. GATES III, MARIA M. KLAWE,  
STEPHEN J. LUCZO, DAVID F.  
MARQUARDT, CHARLES H. NOSKI,  
HELMUT PANKE, JOHN W. THOMPSON,  
PETER S. KLEIN, BRAD SMITH and B.  
KEVIN TURNER,

Defendants,

And

MICROSOFT CORPORATION,

Nominal Defendant.

CASE No.:

COMPLAINT

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**VERIFIED SHAREHOLDER DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT**

1. Plaintiff Stephen DiPhilipo ("Plaintiff"), by and through his undersigned attorneys, hereby submits this Verified Shareholder Derivative Complaint (the "Complaint") for the benefit of nominal defendant Microsoft Corporation ("Microsoft" or the "Company")

COMPLAINT - 1

**BADGLEY MULLINS TURNER PLLC**  
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Seattle, WA 98104  
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1 against certain current and/or former members of its Board of Directors (the “Board”) and  
2 executive officers, seeking to remedy defendants’ breaches of fiduciary duties and unjust  
3 enrichment from 2011 to the present (the “Relevant Period”).

#### 4 NATURE OF THE ACTION

5 2. According to its public filings, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software,  
6 services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

7 3. Beginning around 2007, the European Union (“EU”) began probing the  
8 Company regarding antitrust violations with respect to the inclusion of Internet Explorer (and  
9 only Internet Explorer) with the Windows Operating System (“Windows”). In December  
10 2009, EU regulators dropped an antitrust case against Microsoft after the defendants caused the  
11 Company to agree to offer consumers a choice of rival Web browsers with Windows (the  
12 “Settlement”). The Settlement was a five-year deal, whereby European Windows users would  
13 be given a choice of 11 competing web browsers, including those made by Apple, Google and  
14 Mozilla. By stipulating to the Settlement under the defendants’ direction, Microsoft avoided  
15 paying a fine to EU officials. Critically, pursuant to the terms of the Settlement, Microsoft was  
16 directly responsible for monitoring its own compliance with the Settlement over the next five  
17 years.  
18

19 4. Beginning in February 2011, under the defendants’ direction and on their watch,  
20 the Company blatantly and continuously violated the terms of the Settlement. At that time, in  
21 direct violation of the Settlement, the defendants caused Microsoft to eliminate the choice  
22 screen from *at least 15 million* installations of Windows 7 in Europe, making Internet Explorer  
23 the only Web browser available on these installations.  
24

25 5. In the summer of 2012, although Microsoft was responsible for monitoring its  
26

1 compliance with the Settlement, the EU antitrust chief, Joaquín Almunia (“Almunia”) of the  
2 European Commission, warned the defendants that on some occasions Microsoft software was  
3 not providing users the full access to competing Web browsers, as was stipulated in the  
4 Settlement. The defendants “apologized” to Almunia, calling it a “technical problem.” Yet  
5 despite the apology, the defendants did nothing to halt the illicit scheme.

6         6. On March 6, 2013, it was announced that European regulators had fined  
7 Microsoft an extraordinary **€561 million, or approximately \$732.2 million**, for violating the  
8 Settlement. Notably, this was *the first time in history* that the EU had punished a company for  
9 violating the terms of an antitrust settlement. Despite the enormous and unprecedented fine at  
10 issue, the defendants issued an extremely short statement in response to the disastrous situation,  
11 accepting responsibility but maintaining that the violation of the Settlement was purportedly  
12 nothing more than a “technical error.” Moreover, the defendants offered no explanation as to  
13 how the Settlement could have been violated, even though Microsoft itself was responsible for  
14 monitoring its own compliance with the Settlement.

15  
16         7. As a result of their actions, the defendants have caused the Company to be  
17 damaged to the extent of at least **\$732.2 million**.

18  
19         8. As a result of the above, on March 21, 2013, Plaintiff issued a pre-suit demand  
20 pursuant to Washington law (the “Demand”) on the Board to investigate and commence an  
21 action against certain current and/or former directors and executive officers of the Company. A  
22 true and correct copy of the Demand is attached hereto at Exhibit A.

23         9. Over ten months later, on January 28, 2014, Plaintiff’s counsel received a letter  
24 from attorney Susan S. Muck (“Muck”) of the law firm Fenwick & West LLP (“Fenwick”),  
25 informing Plaintiff’s counsel that the Demand was being refused in its entirety. This  
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1 correspondence of January 28, 2014 shall be referred to as the “Refusal.” The Refusal  
2 informed Plaintiff’s counsel that Fenwick was counsel to a purported Board subcommittee (the  
3 “Demand Review Committee” or “DRC”), consisting of two directors (defendants Stephen  
4 Luczo and Dina Dublin, both further defined herein), who were purportedly appointed to  
5 investigate the allegations in the Demand. A true and correct copy of the Refusal is attached  
6 hereto at Exhibit B.

7  
8 10. The Refusal included a purported “Resolution of the Board of Directors  
9 Adopting the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Demand Review Committee”  
10 (hereinafter referred to as the “Resolution”), which totaled less than three pages. The  
11 Resolution contended that among other things, the DRC reviewed thousands of documents and  
12 “conducted relevant witness interviews.” The Resolution concluded that the Demand did not  
13 contain facts “to support any viable claim for breach of fiduciary duty,” that the allegations in  
14 the Demand did “not give rise to legally viable claims against any of the Company’s current or  
15 former officers or directors,” and that “the Company undertook and adopted significant  
16 remedial measures” before receiving the Demand.

17  
18 11. The Refusal (that is, Muck’s one page letter and the two and a half page  
19 Resolution) is wholly improper. By issuing the conclusory Resolution and cover letter, the  
20 defendants have attempted to insulate their investigation from any scrutiny, which is  
21 unreasonable. Plaintiff has received no report whatsoever from the DRC, other than the  
22 Resolution described above. Astoundingly, the Resolution found that the Demand did not  
23 contain facts to support any viable claim for breach of fiduciary duty [against the defendants],  
24 even though the defendants caused the Company *to admit to the wrongdoing and accept*  
25 *responsibility*. The DRC’s sweeping conclusion that no breach of fiduciary duty occurred,  
26

1 when coupled with the defendants taking “full responsibility,” creates reasonable doubt that the  
2 DRC’s investigation was conducted reasonably and in good faith. The DRC has merely recited  
3 the conclusion that refusing the Demand was proper, without sufficiently explaining how the  
4 DRC reached that conclusion. The defendants and the DRC have essentially asked Plaintiff to  
5 “take their word for it” regarding the thoroughness of the investigation, even though they have  
6 made no record.

7  
8 12. Moreover, there is the critical issue of witness interviews. The Resolution  
9 simply states that the DRC “conducted relevant witness interviews,” but provides absolutely no  
10 detail whatsoever regarding who was interviewed or what questions were asked. As a result,  
11 Plaintiff’s counsel has no idea if the individuals with the most knowledge of the facts were even  
12 interviewed.

13 13. The Board’s and the DRC’s complete disregard of the actual merits of the  
14 claims set forth in the Demand is improper and demonstrates the Board’s lack of diligence and  
15 good faith.

16 14. Thus, this shareholder derivative action should be allowed to proceed.

### 17 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

18  
19 15. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(2) in  
20 that Plaintiff and Defendants are citizens of different states and the matter in controversy  
21 exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interests and costs. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction  
22 over the state law claims asserted herein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367(a). This action is not a  
23 collusive one to confer jurisdiction on a court of the United States which it would not otherwise  
24 have.

25 16. Venue is proper in this district because a substantial portion of the transactions  
26

1 and wrongs complained of herein, including the defendants' primary participation in the  
2 wrongful acts detailed herein, occurred in this district. One or more of the defendants either  
3 resides in or maintains executive offices in this district, and defendants have received  
4 substantial compensation in this district by engaging in numerous activities and conducting  
5 business here, which had an effect in this district.

### 6 **THE PARTIES**

7 17. Plaintiff is a current shareholder of Microsoft and has continuously held  
8 Microsoft stock since 2010. Plaintiff is a citizen of Massachusetts.

9 18. Nominal defendant Microsoft is a Washington corporation with its headquarters  
10 located at One Microsoft Way Redmond, Washington 98052-6399. According to its public  
11 filings, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people  
12 and businesses realize their full potential.

13 19. Defendant Steven A. Ballmer ("Ballmer") served as the Company's Chief  
14 Executive Officer ("CEO") from 2000 until February 14, 2014, and has served as a director of  
15 the Company since 2000. Upon information and belief defendant Ballmer is a citizen of  
16 Washington.

17 20. Defendant Dina D. Dublon ("Dublon") has served as a director of the Company  
18 since March 2005. In addition, defendant Dublon served as a member of the Board's Audit  
19 Committee (the "Audit Committee") during the Relevant Period. Dublon is a member of the  
20 DRC. Upon information and belief defendant Dublon is a citizen of New York.

21 21. Defendant William H. Gates III ("Gates"), the Company's founder, has served as  
22 a director of the Company since 1981, and served as Chairman of the Board until February 4,  
23 2014. Gates currently serves as the Company's Technology Advisor. Gates served as the  
24  
25  
26

1 Company's CEO from 1975 until 2000. Upon information and belief defendant Gates is a  
2 citizen of Washington.

3 22. Defendant Maria M. Klawe ("Klawe") has served as a director of the Company  
4 since March 2009. Upon information and belief defendant Klawe is a citizen of California.

5 23. Defendant Stephen J. Luczo ("Luczo") served as a director of the Company from  
6 2012 until March 2014. In addition, defendant Luczo served as a member of the Audit  
7 Committee during the Relevant Period. Luczo is a member of the DRC. Upon information and  
8 belief defendant Luczo is a citizen of California.

9 24. Defendant David F. Marquardt ("Marquardt") has served as a director of the  
10 Company since June 30, 1981. Upon information and belief defendant Marquardt is a citizen of  
11 California.

12 25. Defendant Charles H. Noski ("Noski") has served as a director of the Company  
13 since November 2003. In addition, defendant Noski served as Chair of the Audit Committee  
14 during the Relevant Period. Upon information and belief defendant Noski is a citizen of  
15 California.

16 26. Defendant Helmut Panke ("Panke") has served as a director of the Company  
17 since November 11, 2003. In addition, defendant Panke served as a member of the Audit  
18 Committee during the Relevant Period. Upon information and belief defendant Panke is a  
19 citizen of Germany.

20 27. Defendant John W. Thompson ("Thompson") has served as a director of the  
21 Company since February 2012 and as Chairman of the Board since February 4, 2014. Upon  
22 information and belief defendant Thompson is a citizen of California.

23 28. Defendant Peter S. Klein ("Klein") served as the Company's Chief Financial  
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25  
26

1 Officer ("CFO") from 2009 until May 8, 2013. Upon information and belief defendant Klein is  
2 a citizen of Washington.

3 29. Defendant Brad Smith ("Smith") serves as the Company's General Counsel and  
4 Executive Vice President, Legal and Corporate Affairs, as well as Corporate Secretary and  
5 Chief Compliance Officer. Upon information and belief defendant Smith is a citizen of  
6 Washington.

7 30. Defendant B. Kevin Turner ("Turner") has served as the Company's Chief  
8 Operating Officer ("COO") since 2006. Upon information and belief defendant Turner is a  
9 citizen of Washington.  
10

11 31. Collectively, defendants Ballmer, Dublon, Gates, Klawe, Luczo, Marquardt,  
12 Noski, Panke, Thompson, Klein, Smith and Turner shall be referred to herein as "Defendants."

13 32. Collectively, defendants Noski, Dublon, Luczo and Panke shall be referred to  
14 herein as the "Audit Committee Defendants."

15 **DEFENDANTS' DUTIES**

16 33. By reason of their positions as officers, directors, and/or fiduciaries of Microsoft and because of  
17 their ability to control the business and corporate affairs of Microsoft, Defendants owed Microsoft and its  
18 shareholders fiduciary obligations of good faith, loyalty, and candor, and were and are required to use their utmost  
19 ability to control and manage Microsoft in a fair, just, honest, and equitable manner. Defendants were and are  
20 required to act in furtherance of the best interests of Microsoft and its shareholders so as to benefit all shareholders  
21 equally and not in furtherance of their personal interest or benefit. Each director and officer of the Company owes  
22 to Microsoft and its shareholders the fiduciary duty to exercise good faith and diligence in the administration of  
23 the affairs of the Company and in the use and preservation of its property and assets, and the highest obligations of  
24 fair dealing.  
25  
26



1           34. Defendants, because of their positions of control and authority as directors and/or officers of  
2 Microsoft, were able to and did, directly and/or indirectly, exercise control over the wrongful acts complained of  
3 herein. Because of their advisory, executive, managerial, and directorial positions with  
4 Microsoft, each of the Defendants had knowledge of material non-public information regarding  
5 the Company.

6           35. To discharge their duties, the officers and directors of Microsoft were required to  
7 exercise reasonable and prudent supervision over the management, policies, practices and  
8 controls of the Company. By virtue of such duties, the officers and directors of Microsoft were  
9 required to, among other things:  
10

- 11           a. Exercise good faith to ensure that the affairs of the Company were conducted  
12           in an efficient, business-like manner so as to make it possible to provide the  
13           highest quality performance of their business;
- 14           b. Exercise good faith to ensure that the Company was operated in a diligent,  
15           honest and prudent manner and complied with all applicable federal and state  
16           laws, rules, regulations and requirements, and all contractual obligations,  
17           including acting only within the scope of its legal authority; and
- 18           c. When put on notice of problems with the Company's business practices and  
19           operations, exercise good faith in taking appropriate action to correct the  
20           misconduct and prevent its recurrence.

21           36. Pursuant to the Audit Committee's Charter, the members of the Audit  
22 Committee are required to review with the Compliance Officer legal and regulatory matters that  
23 may have a material impact on the financial statements or internal controls over financial  
24 reporting, related Company compliance policies and programs, and related reports received  
25 from regulators. In addition, the members of the Audit Committee are required to review  
26 adequacy of the Company's internal controls, as well as the Company's quarterly and annual  
financial filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

## SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

### Background of the Company and its European Troubles

37. According to its public filings, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

38. Microsoft has had troubles with EU officials since at least 1998, largely for anticompetitive behavior. For instance, in that year, European regulators began to probe Microsoft with respect to the inclusion of its media player with Windows, and for the use of confidential coding to favor the Microsoft desktop and server software. All of this was said to stifle Microsoft's competition. Although (many of the) Defendants caused Microsoft to fight the charges, Microsoft's arguments were dismissed in 2004 (and then again on appeal in 2007). In or about October 2007, Defendants caused Microsoft to abandon its efforts to overturn the ruling, and caused Microsoft to pay the equivalent of about \$2.4 billion in fines and penalties.

39. Meanwhile, EU officials were probing the Company regarding additional antitrust violations with respect to the inclusion of Internet Explorer (and only Internet Explorer) with Windows. On December 16, 2009, EU regulators dropped the antitrust case against Microsoft after Defendants caused the Company to agree to offer consumers a choice of rival Web browsers with Windows. The Settlement was a five-year deal, whereby European Windows users would be given a choice of 11 competing web browsers, including those made by Apple, Google and Mozilla. Under the terms of the Settlement, by mid-March 2010, Microsoft was to send ballot screens via automatic software updates to 100 million users of Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7 in Europe who had set Internet Explorer as their main browser. Further, Microsoft was to send the ballot screens to purchasers of new Windows-based computers (estimated to be 30 million a year). European users of Windows would be

1 given a “choice screen,” which would allow them to easily switch from Internet Explorer to  
2 other Web browsers. By stipulating to the Settlement under Defendants’ direction and on their  
3 watch, Microsoft avoided paying a fine to EU officials. Critically, pursuant to the terms of the  
4 Settlement, Microsoft itself was directly responsible for monitoring its own compliance with  
5 the Settlement over the next five years.

6 40. On December 16, 2009, Defendants issued a press release regarding the  
7 Settlement, which contained a statement by defendant Smith, the Company’s Senior Vice  
8 President and General Counsel. This press release set forth, in relevant part:  
9

10 We are pleased with today’s decision by the European Commission, which  
11 approves a final resolution of several longstanding competition law issues in  
12 Europe. We look forward to building on the dialogue and trust that has been  
13 established between Microsoft and the Commission and to extending our industry  
14 leadership on interoperability.

15 Today’s resolution follows years of intensive examination by the European  
16 Commission of competition in computer software. The measures approved today  
17 reflect multiple rounds of input from industry participants relating to competition  
18 in Web browser software and interoperability between various Microsoft products  
19 and competing products.

20 The Web browser measures cover the inclusion of Internet Explorer in Windows  
21 for users in Europe—specifically the region known as the European Economic  
22 Area, which includes 30 nations. ***Under today’s resolution, Microsoft commits  
23 that PC manufacturers and users will continue to be able to install any browser  
24 on top of Windows, to make any browser the default browser on new PCs, and  
25 to turn access to Internet Explorer on or off. In addition, Microsoft will send a  
26 “browser choice” screen to Windows users who are running Internet Explorer  
as their default browser. This browser choice screen will present a list of  
browsers, making it easy for users to install any one of them. It will be provided  
both to users of new computers and to the installed base of Windows XP,  
Windows Vista, and Windows 7 computers in Europe where Internet Explorer  
is set as the default browser.***

27 The second measure is a “public undertaking” that covers interoperability with  
28 Microsoft’s products—the way our high-share products work with non-Microsoft  
29 technologies. This applies to an important set of Microsoft’s products—our  
30 Windows, Windows Server, Office, Exchange, and SharePoint products. We

1 believe it represents the most comprehensive commitment to the promotion of  
2 interoperability in the history of the software industry. Under this undertaking,  
3 Microsoft will ensure that developers throughout the industry, including in the  
4 open source community, will have access to technical documentation to assist  
5 them in building products that work well with Microsoft products. Microsoft will  
6 also support certain industry standards in its products and fully document how  
7 these standards are supported. Microsoft will make available legally-binding  
8 warranties that will be offered to third parties.

9 Our interoperability undertaking reflects the policy outlined by the European  
10 Commission in a major policy speech given by Commissioner Neelie Kroes in  
11 June 2008. At that time, the Commissioner said that companies offering high-  
12 share software products should be required to (i) disclose technical specifications  
13 to enable interoperability; (ii) ensure that competitors can access complete and  
14 accurate information and have a remedy if not; and (iii) ensure that the technical  
15 specifications are available at fair royalty rates, based on the inherent value of the  
16 technology disclosed. Our interoperability undertaking, developed through  
17 extensive consultation, implements this approach in full.

18 As we've said before, we are embarking on a path that will require significant  
19 change within Microsoft. Nevertheless, we believe that these are important steps  
20 that resolve these competition law concerns.

21 This is an important day and a major step forward, and we look forward to  
22 building a new foundation for the future in Europe. [Emphasis added.]

### 23 **Defendants Cause the Company to Violate the Settlement**

24 41. Beginning in February 2011, under Defendants' direction and on their watch, the  
25 Company blatantly violated the terms of the Settlement. At that time, in direct violation of the  
26 Settlement, Defendants caused Microsoft to eliminate the choice screen from *at least 15 million*  
*installations* of Windows 7 in Europe, making Internet Explorer the only Web browser  
available on these installations.

42. On July 28, 2011, Defendants caused the Company to file with the SEC an  
annual report on Form 10-K the ("2011 10-K"), which was signed by defendants Ballmer,  
Gates, Dublon, Klawe, Marquardt, Noski, Panke and Klein. In addition, the 2011 10-K  
contained certifications pursuant to the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 ("SOX Certifications"),

signed by defendants Ballmer and Klein, who stated:

I, [Steven A. Ballmer/Peter S. Klein], certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Microsoft Corporation;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

\* \* \*

In connection with the Annual Report of Microsoft Corporation, a Washington corporation (the "Company"), on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2011, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Report"), [Steven A. Ballmer, Chief Executive Officer of the Company/Peter S. Klein, Chief Financial Officer of the Company], does hereby certify, pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (18 U.S.C. § 1350), that to his knowledge:

(1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and

(2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

43. In addition, the 2011 10-K set forth the following, in relevant part:

The European Commission closely scrutinizes the design of high-volume Microsoft products and the terms on which we make certain technologies used in these products, such as file formats, programming interfaces, and protocols, available to other companies. In 2004, the Commission ordered us to create new versions of Windows that do not include certain multimedia technologies and to provide our competitors with specifications for how to implement certain proprietary Windows communications protocols in their own products. In 2009, the Commission accepted a set of commitments offered by Microsoft to address the Commission's concerns relating to competition in Web browsing software. The Commission's impact on product design may limit our ability to innovate in Windows or other products in the future, diminish the developer appeal of the Windows platform, and increase our product development costs. The availability of licenses related to protocols and file formats may enable competitors to develop software products that better mimic the functionality of our own products which could result in decreased sales of our products.

1           44.     The 2011 10-K was false and misleading at the time it was issued. The 2011 10-  
2 K failed to disclose that the Defendants were causing the Company to violate the Settlement,  
3 which could expose the Company to hundreds of millions of dollars in fines.

4           45.     In the summer of 2012, although Microsoft was responsible for monitoring its  
5 own compliance with the Settlement, EU antitrust chief Almunia warned Defendants that on  
6 some occasions Microsoft software was not providing users the full access to competing Web  
7 browsers, as was stipulated in the Settlement. Defendants “apologized” to Almunia, calling it a  
8 “technical problem.” Yet despite the apology, Defendants did nothing to halt the illicit scheme,  
9 occurring under their direction and on their watch.  
10

11                               **The Truth Begins to Emerge**

12           46.     In October 2012, months after Almunia warned Defendants and months after  
13 Defendants’ “apology,” Almunia charged Microsoft with failing to abide by the terms of the  
14 Settlement. Further, Almunia put Defendants on notice that Microsoft must include adequate  
15 access to rival browsers in European version of the Windows 8 operating system, which was  
16 about to go on sale.  
17

18           47.     On March 6, 2013, it was announced that European regulators had fined  
19 Microsoft an extraordinary €561 million, or approximately *\$732.2 million*, for violating the  
20 Settlement. Notably, this was the first time in history that the EU had punished a company for  
21 violating the terms of an antitrust settlement.  
22

23           48.     That same day, *The New York Times* (“NYT”) published an article entitled  
24 “European Regulators Fine Microsoft, Then Promise to Do Better.” The article set forth, in  
25 relevant part:  
26



1 The European Union fined Microsoft \$732 million on Wednesday for failing to  
 2 respect an antitrust settlement with regulators. But in a highly unusual mea culpa,  
 3 the European Union's top antitrust regulator said that his department bore some of  
 the responsibility for Microsoft's failure to respect a settlement that caused the  
 fine.

4 Joaquín Almunia, the European Union competition commissioner, said the bloc  
 5 had been "naïve" to put Microsoft in charge of monitoring its adherence to the  
 6 deal it agreed to in 2009, when his predecessor let the company escape a fine in  
 exchange for offering users of its Windows software a wider choice of Internet  
 browsers.

7 Mr. Almunia insisted that the enforcement of settlements could be sufficiently  
 8 strengthened to ensure that companies abide by their pledges, and he signaled that  
 9 he would not retreat from his goal to use such deals to avoid lengthy legal battles  
 with major companies in swiftly evolving technology markets.

10 Settlements "allow for rapid solutions to competition problems," Mr. Almunia  
 11 said. "Of course such decisions require strict compliance" and the "failure to  
 12 comply is a very serious infringement that must be sanctioned accordingly."

13 *Microsoft had agreed to alter Windows for five years to give users of newly*  
 14 *purchased computers in Europe a ballot screen that would allow them to easily*  
*download other browsers from the Internet and to turn off Microsoft's browser,*  
*Internet Explorer.*

15 *Microsoft told the commission at the end of 2011 that it had been abiding by the*  
 16 *deal. "We trusted the reports about the compliance," Mr. Almunia said*  
*Wednesday.*

17 *In fact, the company failed to include the ballot system in certain products*  
 18 *starting in May 2011, affecting more than 15 million European users. The lapse*  
*came to light last July, after rival companies reported its absence.*

19 *"We take full responsibility for the technical error that caused this problem and*  
 20 *have apologized,"* Microsoft said Wednesday. "We have taken steps to strengthen  
 21 our software development and other processes to help avoid this mistake — or  
 anything similar — in the future."

22 A Microsoft spokesman declined to comment on whether the company would  
 23 appeal, but it seemed unlikely, as the company prefers to focus on its rivalry with  
 24 Google. Microsoft is among the companies that have complained about Google's  
 business practices to Mr. Almunia.

25 \* \* \*



Mr. Almunia said he had not yet decided whether to appoint a trustee to oversee whether Microsoft was adhering to the rest of its compliance period in the browser case, which runs to 2014.

***Microsoft has been a special case in the history of European Union antitrust enforcement, racking up a total of \$3.4 billion in fines over about a decade.***

Microsoft was the first company to pay so-called periodic penalties for failing to follow an order to make it easier for rival products to communicate with powerful server computers running Windows. That amount, nearly 900 million euros, was subsequently reduced to 860 million euros after the company appealed to the General Court of the European Union.

***The decision against Microsoft was another milestone for European Union antitrust law, and for Microsoft, which became the first company to be punished for failing to adhere to a settlement.*** [Emphasis added.]

49. Also that day, *Computerworld.com* published an article entitled “EU let Microsoft police itself on browser ballot promises.”<sup>1</sup> This article set forth, in relevant part:

Europe’s antitrust agency had put Microsoft on the honor system, letting the company monitor its own compliance with a 2009 settlement that required it to offer other browsers to Windows users, the EU’s top regulator admitted.

That eventually led to the Brussels-based European Commission slapping a \$732 million fine on Microsoft today.

***“The reports we were receiving had not signaled us of this breach,” said Joaquin Almunia, the head of the antitrust agency, when asked how the oversight went undetected for over a year.***

***Those reports, it turned out, were coming from Microsoft. “We trusted in the reports on the compliance [from Microsoft],” said Almunia. “We were not trying to explore Windows Service Pack 1. But maybe we should have tried to complement their reports.”***

He admitted the Commission may have made a mistake letting Microsoft police itself, rather than appointing an external overseer. “In 2009, we were even more

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<sup>1</sup> Article available at:  
[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9237392/EU\\_let\\_Microsoft\\_police\\_itself\\_on\\_browser\\_ballot\\_promises](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9237392/EU_let_Microsoft_police_itself_on_browser_ballot_promises)

1 naive than today,” Almunia added. He also suggested that the agency would  
2 change how it monitors deals struck in the future.

3 The 2009 agreement required Microsoft to show European Windows users a  
4 browser ballot, a screen that displayed download links to rivals’ browsers,  
5 including Google’s Chrome, Mozilla’s Firefox and Opera Software’s Opera.

6 But Microsoft made what it has repeatedly called a “technical error” when it  
7 omitted the ballot from Windows 7 Service Pack 1 (SP1) for 14 months, from  
8 May 2011 until July 2012. Approximately 15.3 million users did not see the ballot  
9 as intended, said Almunia.

10 ***One U.S. antitrust expert struggled to understand why EU regulators let***  
11 ***Microsoft supervise itself.***

12 ***“The Federal Trade Commission, where I used to work, has an entire***  
13 ***compliance department, with lawyers and economists, to make sure orders are***  
14 ***complied with,” said Robert Lande, a law professor at the University of***  
15 ***Baltimore and director of the American Antitrust Institute. “That’s kind of***  
16 ***elementary. It’s not rocket science.”***

17 Lande also blasted the Commission for allowing a repeat offender to police itself.  
18 ***“Why would you put a three-time offender on the honor system?” Lande asked,***  
19 ***referring to other antitrust actions against Microsoft, both in the U.S. and in***  
20 ***the EU, that have resulted in billions in fines.***

21 Today, Microsoft reiterated what it has said since mid-2012. “We take full  
22 responsibility for the technical error that caused this problem and have apologized  
23 for it,” the company said in a statement. “We provided the Commission with a  
24 complete and candid assessment of the situation, and we have taken steps to  
25 strengthen our software development and other processes to help avoid this  
26 mistake -- or anything similar -- in the future.”

Microsoft’s quick admission of the omission, multiple apologies, and cooperation  
with the EU authorities, were factors Almunia took into consideration when  
deciding on a fine, he said today.

According to Microsoft, the browser ballot was left out of Windows 7 SP1 when  
an engineering team forgot to update code that distributed the choice screen.

***Microsoft did not report the oversight to the Commission: As late as December***  
***2011, months after the ballot stopped being shown, Microsoft reported that***  
***everything was fine. Instead, an unnamed complainant alerted the EU.*** Almunia  
has declined to identify the complaint’s origin, but one possible suspect is

1 Mozilla, which has been the most vocal of all of Microsoft's browser rivals about  
its practices.

2 *Lande thought the explanation incredulous. "You can't say it's accidental for*  
3 *15 months," he argued today. "Microsoft says it was a technical glitch, okay,*  
4 *one month, I understand, you left it out of a batch. But not for 15 months. That*  
*doesn't look like an accident to me."*

5 It's unlikely that Microsoft will appeal the fine, what with its public apologies and  
6 admission of guilt. Today, however, the company declined to comment on its  
7 plans. [Emphasis added.]

8 50. Despite the enormous and unprecedented fine at issue, Defendants issued an  
9 extremely short statement in response to the disastrous situation, purportedly taking "full  
10 responsibility" but again maintaining that the violation of the Settlement was merely a  
11 "technical error." Moreover, Defendants offered no explanation as to how the Settlement could  
12 have been violated, even though Microsoft itself was responsible for monitoring its own  
13 compliance with the Settlement. The statement, contained in a press release (and reprinted in  
14 the *NYT* article above), read as follows:

15 *We take full responsibility* for the technical error that caused this problem and  
16 have apologized for it. We provided the Commission with a complete and candid  
17 assessment of the situation, and we have taken steps to strengthen our software  
18 development and other processes to help avoid this mistake – or anything similar  
– in the future.

19 51. As a result of Defendants' actions (which they have admitted to), the Company  
20 has suffered damages.

## 21 **DERIVATIVE AND DEMAND ALLEGATIONS**

22 52. Plaintiff brings this action derivatively in the right and for the benefit of  
23 Microsoft to redress the breaches of fiduciary duty and other violations of law by Defendants.

24 53. Plaintiff will adequately and fairly represent the interests of Microsoft and its shareholders in  
25 enforcing and prosecuting its rights.  
26

1           54. As a result of the actions set forth above, on March 21, 2013, Plaintiff issued the  
2 Demand pursuant to Washington law on the Board to investigate and commence an action  
3 against certain current and/or former directors and executive officers of the Company. *See*  
4 Exhibit A.

5           55. Over ten months later, on January 28, 2014, Plaintiff's counsel received the  
6 Refusal from attorney Muck of the law firm Fenwick, informing Plaintiff's counsel that the  
7 Demand was being refused in its entirety. The Refusal informed Plaintiff's counsel that  
8 Fenwick was counsel to a purported DRC, consisting of defendants Luczo and Dublin, who  
9 were purportedly appointed to investigate the allegations in the Demand. *See* Exhibit B.  
10

11           56. The Refusal included the purported Resolution, which totaled less than three  
12 pages. The Resolution contended that among other things, the DRC reviewed thousands of  
13 documents and "conducted relevant witness interviews." The Resolution concluded that the  
14 Demand did not contain facts "to support any viable claim for breach of fiduciary duty," that  
15 the allegations in the Demand did "not give rise to legally viable claims against any of the  
16 Company's current or former officers or directors," and that "the Company undertook and  
17 adopted significant remedial measures" before receiving the Demand.  
18

19           57. The Refusal (that is, Muck's one page letter and the two and a half page  
20 Resolution) are wholly improper. By issuing the conclusory Resolution and cover letter,  
21 Defendants have attempted to insulate their investigation from any scrutiny, which is  
22 unreasonable. Plaintiff has received no report whatsoever from the DRC, other than the  
23 Resolution described above. Astoundingly, the Resolution found that the Demand did not  
24 contain facts to support any viable claim for breach of fiduciary duty [against Defendants], even  
25 though Defendants caused the Company *to admit to the wrongdoing and accept responsibility*.  
26

1 The DRC's sweeping conclusion that no breach of fiduciary duty occurred, when coupled with  
 2 Defendants taking "full responsibility," creates reasonable doubt that the DRC's investigation  
 3 was conducted reasonably and in good faith. The DRC has merely recited the conclusion that  
 4 refusing the Demand was proper, without sufficiently explaining how the DRC reached that  
 5 conclusion. Defendants and the DRC have essentially asked Plaintiff to "take their word for it"  
 6 regarding the thoroughness of the investigation.

7 58. Moreover, there is the critical issue of witness interviews. The Resolution  
 8 simply states that the DRC "conducted relevant witness interviews," but gives absolutely no  
 9 detail whatsoever regarding who was interviewed or what questions were asked. As a result,  
 10 Plaintiff's counsel has no idea if the individuals with the most knowledge of the facts were even  
 11 interviewed.  
 12

13 59. The Board's and the DRC's complete disregard of the actual merits of the  
 14 claims set forth in the Demand is improper and demonstrates the Board's lack of diligence and  
 15 good faith.  
 16

17 60. Thus, this shareholder derivative action should be allowed to proceed.

18 **COUNT I**  
 19 **AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY FOR**  
 20 **DISSEMINATING INACCURATE INFORMATION**

21 61. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set  
 22 forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

23 62. As alleged in detail herein, each of the Defendants (and particularly the Audit  
 24 Committee Defendants) had a duty to ensure that Microsoft disseminated accurate, truthful and  
 25 complete information to its shareholders.

26 63. Defendants violated their fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, and good faith by

1 causing or allowing the Company to disseminate to Microsoft shareholders materially  
2 misleading and inaccurate information through, *inter alia*, SEC filings, press releases,  
3 conference calls, and other public statements and disclosures as detailed herein. These actions  
4 could not have been a good faith exercise of prudent business judgment.

5 64. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' foregoing breaches of fiduciary  
6 duties, the Company has suffered significant damages, as alleged herein.

7  
8 **COUNT II**  
9 **AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES**  
10 **FOR FAILING TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL CONTROLS**

11 65. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding and subsequent paragraphs as if  
12 fully set forth herein.

13 66. As alleged herein, each of the Defendants (and particularly the Audit Committee Defendants)  
14 had a fiduciary duty to, among other things, exercise good faith to ensure that the Company's financial statements  
15 were prepared in accordance with GAAP, and, when put on notice of problems with the Company's business  
16 practices and operations, exercise good faith in taking appropriate action to correct the misconduct and prevent its  
17 recurrence.

18 67. Defendants willfully ignored the obvious and pervasive problems with Microsoft's internal  
19 controls and practices and procedures and failed to make a good faith effort to correct these problems or prevent  
20 their recurrence.

21 68. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' foregoing breaches of  
22 fiduciary duties, the Company has sustained damages.

23 //  
24

25 //  
26

**COUNT III**  
**AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES FOR**  
**FAILING TO PROPERLY MANAGE THE COMPANY**

69. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

70. Defendants owed and owe Microsoft fiduciary obligations. By reason of their fiduciary relationships, Defendants specifically owed and owe Microsoft the highest obligation of good faith, fair dealing and loyalty.

71. Defendants had a fiduciary duty to ensure that the Company was operated in a diligent, honest and prudent manner and complied with all applicable federal and state laws, rules, regulations and requirements, and all contractual obligations, including acting only within the scope of its legal authority, and when put on notice of problems with the Company's business practices and operations, exercise good faith in taking appropriate action to correct the misconduct and prevent its recurrence.

72. Defendants, and each of them, violated and breached their fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, reasonable inquiry, oversight, good faith and supervision.

73. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' failure to perform their fiduciary obligations, Microsoft has sustained significant damages, not only monetarily, but also to its corporate image and goodwill.

74. As a result of the misconduct alleged herein, Defendants are liable to the Company.

75. Plaintiff, on behalf of Microsoft, has no adequate remedy at law.

**COUNT IV**  
**AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS FOR UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

76. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

77. By their wrongful acts and omissions, the Defendants were unjustly enriched at the expense of and to the detriment of Microsoft.

78. Plaintiff, as a shareholder and representative of Microsoft, seeks restitution from Defendants, and each of them, and seeks an order of this Court disgorging all profits, benefits, and other compensation obtained by Defendants, and each of them, as a result of their wrongful conduct and fiduciary breaches.

**COUNT V**  
**AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS FOR ABUSE OF CONTROL**

79. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

80. Defendants' misconduct alleged herein constituted an abuse of their ability to control and influence Microsoft, for which they are legally responsible. In particular, Defendants abused their positions of authority by causing or allowing Microsoft to violate the Settlement.

81. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' abuse of control, Microsoft has sustained significant damages.

82. As a result of the misconduct alleged herein, Defendants are liable to the Company.

83. Plaintiff, on behalf of Microsoft, has no adequate remedy at law.



**COUNT VI**  
**AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS FOR GROSS MISMANAGEMENT**

84. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

85. Defendants had a duty to Microsoft and its shareholders to prudently supervise, manage and control the operations, business and internal financial accounting and disclosure controls of Microsoft.

86. Defendants, by their actions and by engaging in the wrongdoing described herein, abandoned and abdicated their responsibilities and duties with regard to prudently managing the businesses of Microsoft in a manner consistent with the duties imposed upon them by law. By committing the misconduct alleged herein, Defendants breached their duties of due care, diligence and candor in the management and administration of Microsoft's affairs and in the use and preservation of Microsoft's assets.

87. During the course of the discharge of their duties, Defendants knew or recklessly disregarded the unreasonable risks and losses associated with their misconduct, yet Defendants caused Microsoft to engage in the scheme complained of herein which they knew had an unreasonable risk of damage to Microsoft, thus breaching their duties to the Company. As a result, Defendants grossly mismanaged Microsoft.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment as follows:

A. Against all Defendants and in favor of the Company for the amount of damages sustained by the Company as a result of Defendants' breaches of fiduciary duties;

1 B. Directing Microsoft to take all necessary actions to reform and improve its  
2 corporate governance and internal procedures to comply with applicable laws and to protect the  
3 Company and its shareholders from a repeat of the damaging events described herein,  
4 including, but not limited to, putting forward for shareholder vote resolutions for amendments  
5 to the Company's By-Laws or Articles of Incorporation and taking such other action as may be  
6 necessary to place before shareholders for a vote a proposal to strengthen the Board's  
7 supervision of operations and develop and implement procedures for greater shareholder input  
8 into the policies and guidelines of the Board;  
9

10 C. Awarding to Microsoft restitution from Defendants, and each of them, and  
11 ordering disgorgement of all profits, benefits and other compensation obtained by the  
12 Defendants;

13 D. Awarding to Plaintiff the costs and disbursements of the action, including  
14 reasonable attorneys' fees, accountants' and experts' fees, costs, and expenses; and

15 E. Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.  
16

17 **JURY DEMAND**

18 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.  
19

20 DATED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.

21 s/ Duncan C. Turner  
22 Duncan C. Turner, WSBA No. 20597  
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*(Pending pro hac vice)*

*Counsel for Plaintiff*

**VERIFICATION**

I, Stephen DiPhilipo, under penalty of perjury, state as follows:

I am the Plaintiff in the above-captioned action. I have read the foregoing Complaint and authorized its filing. Based upon the investigation of my counsel, the allegations in the Complaint are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

DATED: 4-15-14

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen DiPhilipo